

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 IO-14

AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 H-03

DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 PM-07 ACDA-19 SAJ-01

DRC-01 /253 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4597

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR XF IR

SUBJ: IN PRESS INTERVIEW SHAH ADVOCATES LIFTING OF OIL

EMBARGO AND DISCUSY S IRAN'S MID EAST POLICIES AND

RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES

SUMMARY: SHAH, IN PRESS INTERVIEW, ADVOCATES LIFTING OF OIL
EMBARGO, RATIONALIZES IRAN-ISRAEL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, CITES
IRAN'S SUPPORT OF ARAB STATES, REITERATES IRAN'S POLICY VIS-A-
VIS PERSIAN GULF AND ASKS ARAB STATES ENCOURAGE U.S. IN STEPS
IT HAS TAKEN IN CHANGING ITS MIDDLE EAST POLICY. END SUMMARY.

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1. PRESS NOVEMBER 25 FRONT PAGED RECENT INTERVIEW GIVEN BY THE
SHAHANSHAH TO EDITOR OF THE BEIRUT WEEKLY, AL-HAWADIS. PRINCIPAL
POINTS MADE IN INTERVIEW AS FOLLOWS:

A. SHAH ADVOCATED ARAB STATES SUSPEND THEIR OIL WAR AGAINST U.S., WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN UNTIL IT POSSIBLE TO SEE IF DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES NOW UNDER WAY WOULD LEAD TO A LASTING MID EAST PEACE. WONDERING WHY, IF CEASEFIRE ACCEPTED, OIL BOYCOTT AND PRODUCTION CUTBACKS CONTINUED, DECLARED "OIL IS LIKE BREAD - IT CANNOT BE HELD BACK IN TIMES OF PEACE". OBSERVING THAT THE ARABS HAD LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF OIL IN WARTIME, SAID OIL IS A WELL-HEAD OF POWER AND, IF CORRECTLY USED, COULD LEAD ARAB PEOPLE TO PROSPERITY, POWER, AND PEACE;

B. ON QUESTION OF JERUSALEM, MONARCH STATED IT NOT POSSIBLE THAT MUSLIM HOLY PLACES BE PLACED IN HANDS OF NON-MUSLIMS, WHICH HE TOLD SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING HIS RECENT VISIT. ADDITIONALLY STATED UNLESS RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN NATION NOT FULFILLED, THERE WILL BE NO PEACE IN THE AREA; PALESTINIANS, MORE THAN ANY OTHERS, HAVE RIGHT TO DECIDE THEIR DESTINY;

C. THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN IRAN SUPPORT FOR ARABS AND ITS ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ISREAL; (B) HE SAW NO BENEFIT FOR ARABS OR IRAN TO BE DERIVED FROM CLOSING ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC OFFICE IN TEHRAN; (C) IRAN'S RELATIONS WERE BASED ON FACT "ISRAEL EXISTED"; AND (D) IRAN HAD NOT ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL BECAUSE OF ITS TIES WITH MUSLIM WORLD. EVIDENCING PIQUE, HE ASKED AL-HAWADIS EDITOR WHY DID NOT ARABS

DEMAND THEIR FRIENDS AMONG GREAT POWERS BREAK OFF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL; WHY NOT, HE ASKED, DEMAND TURKEY, A SUNNI COUNTRY LIKE THE MAJORITY ARAB STATES, CLOSE DOWN ITS ECONOMIC OFFICE WITH ISRAEL; AND "WHY DO YOU DIRECT ALL YOUR CRITICISM AGAINST IRAN ALONE?" HE SAID IRAN WOULD PURSUE AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL POLICY, NOT BLINQZY FOLLOWING ANYONE ELSE;

D. QUERING AS TO WHY "YOU (ARABS) FORGET IRAN'S POSITIVE ACTIONS", THE SHAH ASKED WHY IT FORGOTTEN IRAN IN EARLY HOURS OF WAR REPLIED POSITIVELY TO IRAQI REQUEST FOR RESUMPTION OF FRIENDSHIP, THUS ALLOWING WITHDRAWAL OF THREE BATTALINS FROM IRAQI-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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IRAN FRONTIER, AND ENABLING THEIR TRANSFER TO THE WAR FRONT; AND WHY IT FORGOTTEN IRAN REFUSED PERMIT AIR PASSAGE OF JEWISH VOLUNTEERS GATHERED IN AUSTRALIA WHO WISHED TO FLY TO ISRAEL. REVEALED IRAN PLACED NUMBER OF ITS AIRCRAFT AT DISPOSAL OF SAUDI ARABIA DURING MID EAST CONFLICT;

E. EVIDENCING HIS SENSITIVITY REGARDING NOMENCLATURE IN REFERRING TO PERSIAN GULF, HE SAID THAT ARABS HAD REWARDED IRAN BY PROTESTING TERM "PERSIAN GULF" DURING RECENT LONDON CONFERENC. ASKED EDITHF WHY YOU (ARABS) INSIST ON CHANGING HISTORICAL NAMES, SAYING SUPPORT CANNOT BE ONE-SIDED;

F. COMMENTING THAT SADAT KNEW WHAT HE WANTED AND COULD PRO-

CEED WITH WISE, LOGICAL AND SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE POLICY, OBSERVED THE U.S. UNDERSTOOD THE DANGERS EXISTING IN THE AREA AND HAD CHANGED ITS POLICY, ADDING "WE MUST ENCOURAGE THEM FOR THE STEPS THEY HAVE ALREADY TAKEN":

G. SHAH SAID HE MISQUOTED BY ROLAND EVANS (WASHINGTON POST) WHEN HE RECENTLY REPORTED AS SAYING HE INTENDED TO JOIN WAR ON SIDE OF ARABS, AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS SAYING IRAN READY TO INTERVENE IN ORDER TO ASSIST IMPLEMENTATION RESOLUTION 242 OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL;

H. THE SHAH "REPEATED HIS INVITATION" TO PERSIAN GULF STATES FOR A CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS MEASURES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE GULF. REITERATING IRAN DID NOT WISH BEAR BURDEN OF AXIURING SECURITY IN THE GULF ALONE, SAID "WE WANT NOTHING BUT AGREEMENT ON THE MEANS OF PRESERVING PEACE AND INDEPENDENCE";

I. OBSERVED THAT USSR HAS WON A GOOD REPUTATION AMONG ARABS IN RECENT WAR AND "NOW ENJOYS A GOOD POSITION"; AND

J. CONFIRMED IRAN HAD SENT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO OMAN AT THE SULTAN'S REQUEST. NOTING THAT IRAN INSISTS ON NOT FORCING ITSELF ON ANYONE, STATED, IT IS READY TO HELP IF ASKED - "THE SECURITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OURSELVES AND ALL OUR NEIGHBORS".

2. KAYHAN (SEMI-OFFICIAL VOICE) NOVEMBER 26 EDITORIAL COMMENTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ON SHAH'S INTERVIEW, NOTES PRIDE IRANIANS WILL FEEL IN THEIR MONARCH EXPOUNDING HIS VIEWS AND COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY. STATES IRAN HAS STOOD FIRMLY BY NEED FOR ISRAEL EVACUATE ARAB TERRITORIES, HAS RECOGNIZED RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FATE, HOLDS POSITION MUSLIM HOLY PLACES CAN'T REMAIN IN NON-MUSLIM HANDS, HAS THROWN ITS DIPLOMATIC WEIGHT BEHIND THE ARABS AND EVEN PUT AIR-CRAFT AT SAUDI ARABIA'S DISPOSAL DURING RECENT WAR. FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, EDITORIAL STATES, NOT ESTABLISHED WITH ISRAEL OUT OF RESPECT FOR ARAB FRIENDS; HOWEVER, IRAN ACCEPTS FACT ISRAEL EXISTS AND HAS BASED ITS RELATIONS ON A REALISTIC BASIS. EDITORIAL EXTOLLS SHAH SPEAKING OUT BOLDLY ON OIL ISSUE. ADVOCATES PRESENT MID-EAST PEACE MOVES BE GIVEN CHANCE TO SUCCEED, AND STATES IT IN NO ONE'S INTEREST TO CREATE A SEVERE CUTBACK IN WORLD OIL PRODUCTION AND CREATE STRONG FEELINGS OF ANIMOSITY IN EUROPE AND THE U.S. - "OIL IS A DANGEROUS WEAPON BECAUSE IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE WORLD".

COMMENT: THE SHAH HAS EFFECTIVELY THROUGH THE PRESS GONE ON RECORD OF IRAN'S ADVOCACY FOR ARAB STATES TO END THEIR OIL BOYCOTT AND PRODUCTION CUTBACKS, WHILE GIVING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE EXISTING CEASEFIRE AND EARNEST MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS TO MATERIAL-

IZE.

S TIMING WAS MOST LIKELY ENGENDERED TO INFLUENCE AND
AMELIORATE (IF POSSIBLE) ANY RADICAL POSITION WHICH MAY BE PRE-
SENTED AT THE ARAB STATES ALGERIAN SUMMIT CONFERENCE BEGINNING
NOVEMBER 26. AT THE SAME TIME, HE REITERATED IRAN'S PAST AND
CONTINUING SUPPORT
TO ARAB OBJECTIVES IN OBTAINING A SATISFACTORY
MIDEAST SETTLEMENT AS WELL AS IRAN'S OFT STATED POLICY VIS-A-VIS
THE PERSIAN GULF AND ITS NEIGHBORS.
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